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LAND-RECLAMATION WORK PROGRESSES

The reclamation of the Rassa River, in connection with the construction of the Zupoglav - Stalije railroad line, is one of the most important current projects in Istria.

About 2,000 hectares of excellent land will be reclaimed there this year alone, and, more important, the Potpican mine will be protected from floods. The Ministry for Newly-Liberated Regions has authorized sufficient credit for the reclamation of the entire river valley.

The Five-Year Plan calls for the reclamation of all flooded land in Skoplje, Djerdjelijsa, Strmica, and Struga Svez, in Donji Polog, the Kocansko Polje, and Pelagonija. The reclaimed land will be planted with grain and industrial plants.

This year brigades are at work on the Monospitovo and Pelagorija reclamation projects. Modern machinery, including bulldozers and excavators, is being used on all reclamation sites.

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RECLAMATION YIELDS NEW FARM LAND IN SERBIA -- Politika, No 13315, 13 Aug 49

The largest reclamation project in Serbia will be carried out by building the Danube-Tisa-Danube canal. This is one of the largest projects of its type in southern Europe. The Vojvodina, besides being the granary of Yugoslavia, will thus become a major producer of industrial plants and vegetables. By the end of the Five-Year Plan 180,000 hectares will be irrigated, 190,000 hectares drained, and two harvests per year will be possible. Rice fields will be developed on 30,000 hectares and artificial fish ponds will be formed on 36,000 hectares.

Work toward reclamation of hundreds of hectares of unutilized land is taking place in the Jelas Polje in Croatia. At the beginning of this year rice was sown on about 600 hectares, which are artificially irrigated.

By regulating the Rasa River, 2,000 hectares of fertile land are being recovered. This represents a great step toward agricultural advancement in the Yugoslav part of Istria.

In the case of cotton alone, the Five-Year Plan was surpassed by 14 percent. In regions where cotton and rice were never cultivated, fields of these plants have been planted, chiefly in farm workers' cooperatives, which in Macedonia will provide 62 percent of the total cotton production of the republic. Dalmatia, Hercegovina, and Montenegro also became producers of cotton during the first half of the Five-Year Plan. Hercegovina will supply the government with 10 million meters of cotton cloth this year.

The area devoted to rice in Macedonia is about 1,000 hectares larger than before the war. Several hundred hectares were sown with rice in the Vojvodina this year.

The average production of wheat in 1947 was 9.8 metric centners and in 1948 was 13.6 metric centners per hectare, or 2.3 more than the prewar 10-year average. In the Vojvodina the farm workers' cooperatives produce, on the average, 2,100 kilograms of wheat per hectare.

LAKE SKADAR TO BE DRAINED -- Politika, No 13315, 13 Aug 49

By the end of the first half of the Five-Year Plan, the cultivated land in Yugoslavia had been increased by 400,000 hectares, and by 1951 it will be increased by one million hectares. This will be further increased by plowing fields and pastures.

In Macedonia, thousands of hectares of fertile land, which had been flooded for centuries, already have been reclaimed. In reclaiming the rich Pelagonija, 60 percent of the work called for by the Five-Year Plan has been done this year, and next year 25,000 hectares will be sowed. Pelagonija, Strumicko Polje, the bed of the Crna Reka River, and many other regions in Macedonia which are now flooded will soon produce more cotton, sesame, rice, etc.

Stolacko Polje, Trebuge Polje, Babarsko Polje, and Mostarsko Blato Marsh in Hercegovina will soon be made into fertile fields. Over 3,000 hectares of land in the Mostarsko Blato were protected from floods this year.

In Dalmatia, 7,000 hectares of infertile land have been converted for agricultural use through reclamation.

Among the most important projects is the draining of Lake Skadar. This project began in August. Sabotage by Albania failed to prevent Yugoslavia from starting to convert 22,000 hectares of flooded terrain into fertile land planted with cotton, sesame, tobacco, rice, and grain. The government has allocated 500 million dinars for this project this year.

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